

LYSIONOTUS PALINENSIS — A NEW SPECIES OF GESNERIACEAE FROM
ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA¹

G.D. PAL²

(With one text-figure)

Key words: *Lysionotus palinensis*, new species, Arunachal Pradesh.

During plant exploration in the district of Lower Subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh, an interesting species of the genus *Lysionotus* D. Don was collected. A critical study, based on the regional herbarium specimens of allied species and literature on species of *Lysionotus* D. Don, has proved it to be quite distinct from all known species and is described. Line drawings are provided.

Lysionotus palinensis G.D. Pal sp. nov.
(Figs. : A-D)

Lysionotus serrato D. Don affinis, sed differt foliis lanceolatis ad lineari-lanceolatis, ad marginum spinulosis crenato-serratis coriaceis, pedunculis 3-7 cm longis, calicis lobis lanceolatis, 0.9-1.0 x 0.1-0.2 cm, cuspidato-acuminatis, 4-6 nervatis.

Typus: Holotypus lectus a G.D. Pal ad locum Arunachal, Inferior Subansiri district, Palin c. 1400 m, dia 9.ix.1983, subnumero 400, ex positus in CAL.

Shrubby herbs, 30-40 cm tall, usually unbranched, rooting at the lower nodes. Stems terete or faintly ridged, pubescent above. Leaves ternate, sometimes basal leaves opposite, lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate, 3-7 x 0.5-2.0 cm, cuneate or rounded at base, acuminate, spinulous crenate-serrate at margin, glabrous, coriaceous; young leaves hairy on nerves underneath, pale green underneath; lateral nerves 4-6 pairs; petioles 0.2-0.3 cm long, hairy. Inflorescence laxly cymose many flowered; peduncles 3-7 cm long, terete, wiry, glabrous or sparsely pubescent; bracts ovate-lanceolate, 0.5-0.6 x 0.3-0.35 cm, acuminate, 3-nerved; pedicels 0.5-1.0 cm long, wiry, glabrous. Flowers bluish-purple; calyx lobes lanceolate, 0.9-1.0 x 0.1-0.2

cm, caudate-acuminate, 4-6 nerved, purple; corolla tubular, broad at middle, 4.0-4.5 x 0.8-1.0 cm, distinctly nerved within, reticulate at throat; upper lip 0.8 cm longer than lower lip, 3-lobed; middle lobes oblong to sub orbicular, about 0.8 x 0.6 cm, obtuse; lower lip shorter, truncate; stamens 2, fertile; filaments 0.8-1.0 cm long, flattened; anthers connivent; ovary oblong, 0.2 cm long; styles slender, 2.0-2.3 cm long, unevenly thickened. Capsules not seen.

Fl.: August-September.

Remarks: Grows in moist shaded places of subtropical primary forests on humus rich soil associated with *Impatiens*, *Begonia* spp.

Distribution: INDIA: Arunachal Pradesh, Lower Subansiri dist., Palin c. 1400 m, 9.ix.1983; G.D. Pal 400 (Holotype- CAL)

Note: The new species is closely allied to *L. serratus* D. Don, but can be differentiated by: leaves lanceolate to linear-lanceolate; spinulous crenate-serrate at margin, coriaceous; peduncles 3-7 cm long; calyx-lobes lanceolate, 0.9-1.0 x 0.1-0.2 cm, cuspidate-acuminate, 4-6 nerved.

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²Botanical Survey of India, Arunachal Field Station Itanagar 791 111, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

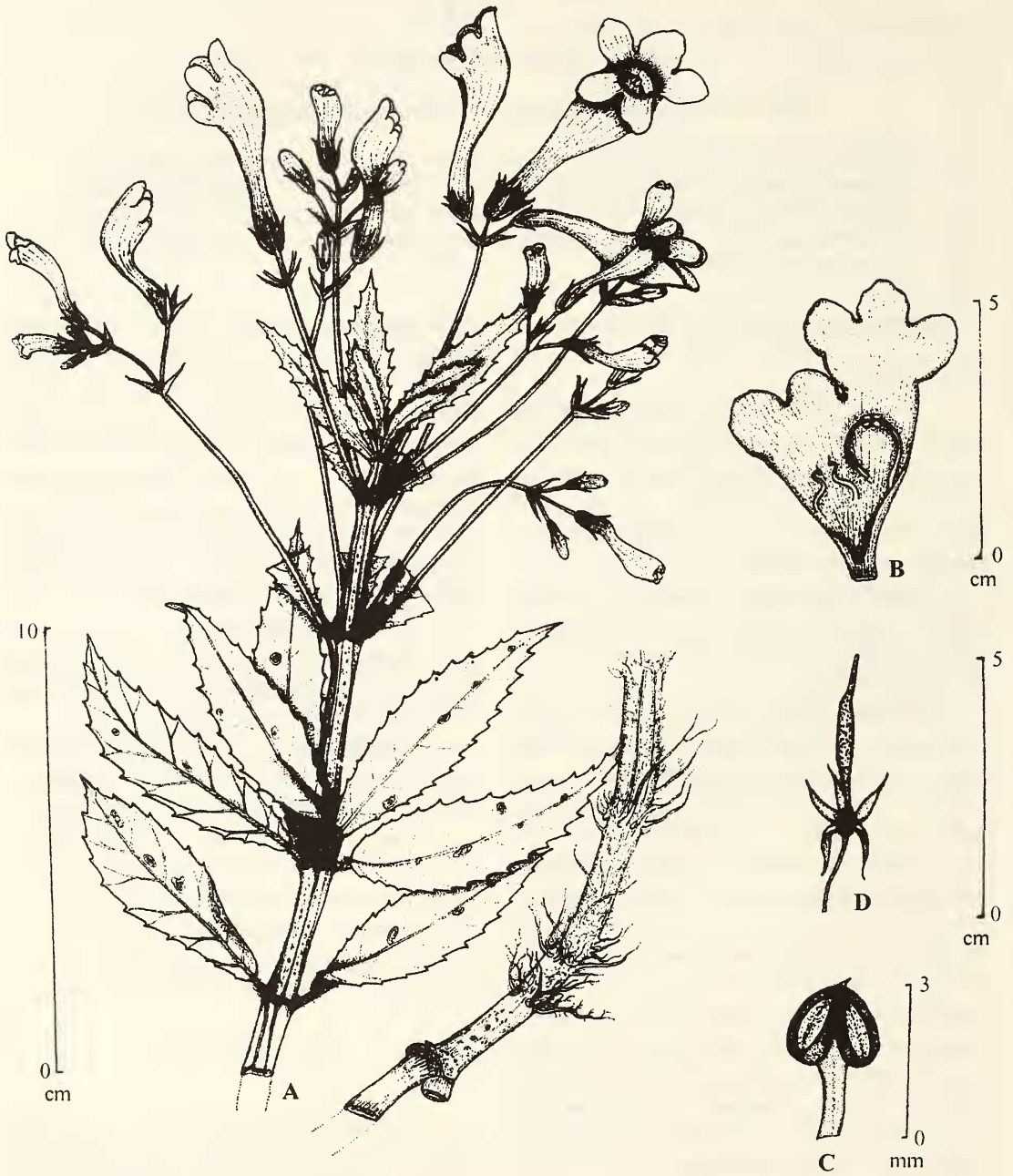


Fig1. A-D: *Lysionotus palinensis* sp. nov., A. Habit; B. Corolla split open; C. Anther; D. Gynaecium with calyx.